

While I question the necessity of having members of the Kickapoo tribe of Oklahoma who reside in Texas apply for U.S. citizenship, it seems to me there could have been a more expedient way to handle this issue.

I strongly support the efforts being made to clarify the citizenship issue and the eligibility of these Native American Indians for Federal and State benefits. I also support the authorization for the Department of the Interior to take into trust 25 acres of land in Maverick County, Texas for the Kickapoo tribe.

This is the third of three American Indian bills being considered by the House today, and again I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) of our committee and the senior Democratic member, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for his sponsorship of this legislation.

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the gentleman from American Samoa has noted and the gentleman from Oklahoma, this restores the provision of BIA and IHS services to members of the Kickapoo tribe in Oklahoma. This bill has strong bipartisan support. I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, this bill as has already been noted, restores the provision of BIA and IHS services to members of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, a largely migratory band of Indians, who often reside for part of the year in Maverick County, Texas.

Although Congress took steps in 1983 to ensure that all Kickapoos living in Texas would be eligible for federal services, there was internal political friction among the Kickapoos residing in Texas that resulted in the formation of the federally-recognized Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas in 1989.

Some of the Texas Kickapoos, namely those who refused to acknowledge the leadership of the Traditional Tribe, chose instead to remain affiliated with the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma.

The problem that we are addressing today is how to ensure that the Kickapoos in Texas who remain affiliated with the Oklahoma Tribe retain the full rights and benefits of the trust relationship with the United States. In other words, we want to ensure that they receive appropriate IHS and BIA services, even when they are residing in Texas.

The trick, of course, is to make sure that we don't diminish the limited resources of the Traditional Tribe of Texas. If there are Texas Kickapoos who chose to remain affiliated with the Oklahoma Kickapoos, then the costs of such services should be charged to the Oklahoma Kickapoos. That is why I am pleased that we are adding today a provision that clarifies that nothing in the bill will result in a diminishing of services to the Traditional Tribe or count as an independent authorization of funds for the Oklahoma Kickapoos.

I understand that the Traditional Tribe of Texas has concerns about the trust status acquisition of lands for the Oklahoma Kickapoos so close to their own reservation, and again I am pleased that we are making a change today that clarifies that the Secretary is not mandated to take a 45-acre parcel of land into trust for the Oklahoma Kickapoos. Leaving the Secretary with discretionary authority will insure that the Traditional Tribe is appropriately consulted in the land acquisition process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2314, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "To restore Federal Indian services to members of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma residing in Maverick County, Texas, to provide trust land for the benefit of the Tribe, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2314, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

GALLATIN LAND CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 1998

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3381) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to exchange land and other assets with Big Sky Lumber Co., as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3381

by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gallatin Land Consolidation Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the land north of Yellowstone National Park possesses outstanding natural characteristics and wildlife habitats that make the land a valuable addition to the National Forest System;

(2) it is in the interest of the United States to establish a logical and effective ownership pattern for the Gallatin National Forest, reducing long-term costs for taxpayers and increasing and improving public access to the forest;

(3) it is in the interest of the United States for the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into an Option Agreement for the acquisition of land owned by Big Sky Lumber Co. to accomplish the purposes of this Act; and

(4) other private property owners are willing to enter into exchanges that further improve the ownership pattern of the Gallatin National Forest.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BLM LAND.**—The term "BLM land" means approximately 2,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land (including all appurtenances to the land) that is proposed to be acquired by BSL, as depicted in Exhibit B to the Option Agreement.

(2) **BSL.**—The term "BSL" means Big Sky Lumber Co., an Oregon joint venture, and its successors and assigns, and any other entities having a property interest in the BSL land.

(3) **BSL LAND.**—The term "BSL land" means approximately 54,000 acres of land (including all appurtenances to the land except as provided in section 4(e)(1)(D)(ii)) owned by BSL that is proposed to be acquired by the Secretary of Agriculture, as depicted in Exhibit A to the Option Agreement.

(4) **EASTSIDE NATIONAL FORESTS.**—The term "Eastside National Forests" means national forests east of the Continental Divide in the State of Montana, including the Beaverhead National Forest, Deerlodge National Forest, Helena National Forest, Custer National Forest, and Lewis and Clark National Forest.

(5) **NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.**—The term "National Forest System land" means approximately 29,000 acres of land (including all appurtenances to the land) owned by the United States in the Gallatin National Forest, Flathead National Forest, Deerlodge National Forest, Helena National Forest, Lolo National Forest, and Lewis and Clark National Forest that is proposed to be acquired by BSL, as depicted in Exhibit B to the Option Agreement.

(6) **OPTION AGREEMENT.**—The term "Option Agreement" means—

(A) the document signed by BSL, dated July 29, 1998, and entitled "Option Agreement for the Acquisition of Big Sky Lumber Co. Lands Pursuant to the Gallatin Range Consolidation and Protection Act of 1993";

(B) the exhibits and maps attached to the document described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) an exchange agreement to be entered into between the Secretary and BSL and made part of the document described in subparagraph (A).

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 4. GALLATIN LAND CONSOLIDATION COMPLETION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to the terms and conditions of the Option Agreement—

(1) if BSL offers title acceptable to the Secretary to the BSL land—

(A) the Secretary shall accept a warranty deed to the BSL land and a quit claim deed to agreed to mineral interests in the BSL land;

(B) the Secretary shall convey to BSL, subject to valid existing rights and to other terms, conditions, reservations, and exceptions as may be agreed to by the Secretary and BSL, fee title to the National Forest System land; and

(C) the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to BSL, by patent or otherwise, subject to valid existing rights and other terms, conditions, reservations, and exceptions as may be agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and BSL, fee title to the BLM land;